

Senate Resolution 1315

By: Senator Balfour of the 9th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Association County Commissioners of Georgia and the Georgia Municipal
2 Association for creating the Council of Local Governments; urging the Council of Local
3 Governments to address several issues that create conflict between cities and counties; and
4 for other purposes.

5 WHEREAS, cities and counties are important partners to the State of Georgia in providing
6 a high quality of life for residents across the state; and

7 WHEREAS, cities provide centers of commerce, a sense of place, a variety of municipal
8 services, and a government that is closest to the people; and

9 WHEREAS, county governments within Georgia have traditionally provided constitutionally
10 mandated services and have served as administrative units for the provision of state services;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the role of cities and counties has evolved over the years as state and local
13 governments have struggled to accommodate Georgia's swelling population; and

14 WHEREAS, actions of the General Assembly of Georgia have at times resulted in
15 duplication of services, competition for revenue, and confusion over the proper role of cities
16 and counties; and

17 WHEREAS, the adjustment of municipal boundaries through annexation continues to be a
18 point of contention between counties and municipalities; and

19 WHEREAS, a few issues straining city-county relations surface each year in the legislature
20 prompted by attempts at state-wide solutions to local problems; and

1 WHEREAS, particularly in urban and urbanizing counties, where counties provide
2 urban-type services in addition to traditional county services, the potential for problems and
3 conflicts resulting from annexation related to land use, revenue, and service delivery
4 increases significantly; and

5 WHEREAS, vibrant, prosperous, and responsive local governments working cooperatively
6 with one another and the state are vital to the future health and prosperity of Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, the Association County Commissioners of Georgia and the Georgia Municipal
8 Association, acting through their respective Board of Managers and Board of Directors, have
9 created the Council of Local Governments as a forum for the elected officials participating
10 in each association to discuss areas of agreement and disagreement.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
12 commend the Association County Commissioners of Georgia and the Georgia Municipal
13 Association for their foresight in creating the Council of Local Governments as a venue to
14 openly and candidly address areas of conflict and to identify areas where cities and counties
15 can work together on a common and focused agenda.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that proposals for amending current annexation law in a way
17 that would resolve the conflicts between counties and cities should be discussed and
18 proposed by representatives of counties and cities rather than by the General Assembly.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate strongly urges that the Georgia Municipal
20 Association and the Association County Commissioners of Georgia make every effort to
21 resolve the problems created by annexation for counties, school districts, and the public.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body urges the Council of Local Governments to
23 address several of the top issues that create conflict between cities and counties, including
24 service delivery, local government revenues, and land use, and to make any recommendations
25 for legislative or administrative action.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Senate urges that legislation to resolve the problems
27 of annexation be jointly prepared and proposed by the two associations in time for
28 consideration in the 2007 session of the General Assembly.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
2 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Association County Commissioners
3 of Georgia, the Georgia Municipal Association, and the Council of Local Governments.